

August 30, 1969

466 - 24th St.

Apt. 10

Oakland, Calif. 94612

Dear Hal,

Your letter of 8/13 received some time ago and I'm replying belatedly.

I believe I have some good news for you in the way of coming out to California and the chance of Paul, Jim Schmitt and myself getting together with you. On 8/27 a Pat Welsh who has a mailing address of Forty Niner Shop, 6049 East 7th Street, Long Beach, Calif. 90801 called me after being referred by Fred Newcomb. Welsh explained that he is a student at the college or university there and in the Fall will be teaching a course on the assassination and wanted my help in setting this up since Fred told him that I had conducted such a course at S.F. State College.

I told Welsh I would assist in any way I could and gave him a list of names of people he could refer to. I included Fensterwald's group in Washington (he hadn't heard of it) and particularly mentioned you. After telling him about your knowledge of the case (he had, of course, heard of your books) he agreed that it would be good to have you appear as a guest speaker there. I said that if you agreed that this would have to be on the basis of paying for the plane fare involved and he agreed. I am sure he can do this for he appears to have done this in the past. I believe both Turner and Penn Jones have already spoken before a group he set up since he mentioned Turner's unique theory of the assassination which Turner told Welsh over the phone he didn't want to talk about until he met him. This sounds like some of the old Boxley bit and the "chalk" thing. I could be wrong about both Turner and Jones speaking previously but he did state that both were scheduled to speak before November of this year. Welsh also invited me to speak and said his group would be willing to pay for the plane fare and a night's lodging. I'll be writing Welsh shortly but, in the meantime, I believe

it would be a good idea for you to write him a letter. Since he is apparently new at this and may not know of the intricacies I think you can clue him in on how important it is to have very responsible speakers appear before his group.

Some other things he mentioned which I cannot vouch for but I'll pass along to you. He said that about two or three weeks ago on the David Frost TV show Adam Clayton Powell said he knew what really happened in the JFK assassination but was too fearful for his life to reveal the knowledge he had. When Frost pressed him Powell refused to say more and Frost then told Powell that he would be considered "irresponsible" if he didn't tell what he did know. Powell did say that he had (or had access to) unpublished volumes not even members of the Warren Commission saw. Of course, Powell could be just trying to be publicity conscious and may have no such "volumes". In discussing this episode with Paul it was his feeling that Powell's reference was to Archive documents rather than volumes but I recall that Welsh was insistent in saying that Powell's allegations referred to volumes and not documents.

In any event, I think it might be worthwhile for you to contact Powell since he must spend a good deal of time in Washington these days and even if he couldn't say anything of significance about the JFK affair it is possible you might be able to present your knowledge of the King assassination and the contents of Coup D'Etat to him. It's worth a try, anyway.

One final thing that Welsh said and I know nothing about it is that Clay Shaw had instituted law suits against Bill Turner, Ramparts, Art Kunkin, the L.A. Free Press. Are you aware of these?

As a passing note: in his conversation with Bill Turner Welsh said that Turner practically swore by the contents of "Farewell America" so you can see how important it is that we do contact Welsh at as early a date as possible so he won't be easily led astray.

To strike a lighter note, I'm enclosing a copy of an article that appeared in a literary magazine known as "Smith/8" which is undated and I believe is published by Horizon Press. It's called "The Truth about the Kennedy Assassination" and written by Ray Puechner. Funniest thing I've read on the case, yet.

Also enclosed is an article that appeared in the 7/21/69 issue of the N.O. States-Item in which a photo of Carlos Castillo appears together with a female companion. The article states that he is the proprietor of a Mexican restaurant which is exactly what you said in previous correspondence to me. As you wrote it was Carlos Castillo with whom Thornley was with when he "celebrated" JFK's murder. Think he is worthwhile following up or have you exhausted this aspect of Thornley's "celebration". In any event, I thought a photo of him might prove of some help in the case of witness identification in future interviews. Who knows, maybe his female "companion" may know something? My guess would be that the handle-bar moustache is of rather recent vintage.

Also enclosed ~~xxx~~ is ~~the~~ article that appeared in "Penthouse" Paul wrote you about together with some marginal notes I made. One note, in particular, I'll call your attention to is the one at the bottom of page 36 where I make reference to Shaw's apparent avoidance of the name Harvey and him just referring to Oswald as Lee Oswald. It could mean nothing but when his name has been so immortalized under his three names in just about anything that has been written about him why is he here avoiding the name of Harvey. You'll recall that after he was ~~first~~ arrested by Garrison one of his first statements to the press was that he never knew of any such person as Harvey (emphasis mine) Lee Oswald. This was even brought out in the trial and I noted it when he first made his statement back in March, 1967 puzzling over its significance (if any). In one case we have him (Shaw) emphasizing Harvey and in another avoiding the name Harvey. And as noted in the N.O. trial Oswald did fill out an application form using that name as his first name. (Was Oswald acting under advisement in choosing this name as an ~~alias~~ alias?).

Well, anyway, this is all the news I have for now. Let me know what's happening and if there is anything you need I'll try to get it for you.

Give my regards to your wife. Hope you're feeling well.

P.S. What do you make of Ray's latest charges?

Best,
Hal
Hal